with flowers, and smile upon his finger's ends, I knew there was but one way[7]; for his nose was as sharp as a pen, and 'a babbled of green fields[8]*

1. How does my master?
2. Faith, he lies drawing on apace.
3. That's an ill sign.
4. *A&& fumbles* with the pots too.

1. Then there's *no way but one tuith him."*

In the spurious play of King John, 1611, when Faulconbridge sees that prince at the point of death, he says :

"O piercing sight! *Mumbleth* in the mouth,
His speech doth fail—/'

And Pliny, in his Chapter on The Signs of Death, makes mention of "a *lumbling* and pleiting of the bed-cloths." See P. Holland's translation, chap. li. So also, in The Ninth Booke of Notable Thinges, by Thomas Lupton, 4to. bl.l.: "If the forehead of the sicke waxe redde—and his *nose tuaxe sharpe*—if he pull strawes, or the *cloathes of his bedde*—these are most certain tokens of death." STEEVENS.

There is this expression, and not, I believe, designed as a sneer on Shakspeare, in Beaumont and Fletcher's Spanish Curate, Act IV. Sc. V.:

" A glimmering before death, 'tis nothing else, sir;
" Do you *see how he fumbles with the sheets?* "

WHALLEY.

The same indication of approaching death is enumerated by Celsus, Lommius, Hippocrates, and Galen. The testimony of the latter is sufficient to show that such a symptom is by no means imaginary: " Manus ante faciem attollere, muscas quasi venari inani opera, floccos carpere de vestibus, vel pariete. Et in seipso hoc expertus fuit Galenus. Quum enim," &c. *Van Swieten Comm.* torn. ii. sect. 708. COLLINS.

7 I knew there was but one way;] I believe this phrase is proverbial. I meet with it again in If You Know Not Me, You Know Nobody, 1613 :

"I heard the doctors whisper it in secret,
There is no way but one"

Again, in The Life and Death of Gamaliel Ratsey, 1605:

"But now the courtier is in huckster's handling, *there is no way with him but one,* for Ratsey seizes both on his money and books." Again, in P. Holland's translation of the 13th book of Pliny's Natural History: "The leafe also is venomous as the graine, yet otherwhiles there ensueth thereof a fluxe and gurrie of the belly, which saveth their life, or else *there were*

no **way* *but*
one." STEEVENS.

[8] —: and *a* BABBLED of green fields.] The old copy [L e. the